DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1973

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1973)

E. ARNOLD	Preston-on-Wye
Sir D.T.L. BAILEY, Bart.	Brinsop and Wormesley
G.B. BRAY	Dilwyn
C. COLBATCH CLARK	Canon Pyon
Sir R.C.G. COTTERELL, Bart. C.B.E., ...	Mansel Gamage
Mrs. V.A.C. COTTERELL	Bridge Sollars and Byford
Major D.J.C. DAVENPORT (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee)	Mansel Lacy
Mrs. L.A. DAVENPORT	Yazor
Major J.B. FOWLER	Canon Pyon
Lt. Col. E.R.F. GILBERT (Chairman of the Water and Sewerage Committee)	Bishopstone
R.J. GREENE	Eardisland and Stretford
J.L. GRIFFITHS	Eardisland and Stretford
J.L. HUGHES (Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Health and Housing Cttee)	Norton Canon
W.G. JENKINS	Almeley
A.I. LEWIS	Brobury & Monnington-on-Wye
Mrs. M.A. LOCKLEY	Dilwyn
H.T. LOCKLEY	Dilwyn
R.A. MARSHALL	Kinnersley and Sarnesfield
Miss E.M. MORGAN	Moccas
T.O. NICHOLLS	Birley
C.J. NORMAN (Chairman of the Rating Committee) ..	Weobley
O.B. PUGH	Blakemere
S. SIMONS	Weobley
Major W.R.D. VERDIN, J.P. (Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Establishment Committee)	King's Pyon
Mrs. M. WATT	Letton

Clerk of the Council .. I.W. BROWN

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This Report has been completed at the request of the Department of Health and Social Security.

The vital statistics for the year which are usually supplied by the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, are not available for inclusion in the report, but locally compiled figures of the births and deaths for the district are given on page 3.

The Public Health Inspector, Mr. Leonard Morley, is retiring on March 31st and has therefore been extremely busy in ensuring that there will be a smooth hand-over to the new Council, has done a magnificent job in completing his section of the report.

John Sleigh, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health,
North Herefordshire,
Westfield Walk,
LEOMINSTER. (Telephone:
(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

Medical Officer of Health,
South Herefordshire,
Chepstow House,
ROSS-ON-WYE.
(Telephone: Ross-on-Wye 2214)

27th March, 1974.

LEONARD MORLEY, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.A.R.D.S.,
Cert. Meat and Other Foods,
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, Housing Officer,
Council Offices, Whitehill House,
WEOBLEY. (Telephone: Weobley 395/6)

Technical Assistant: G. MITCHELL

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor: Miss Z.M. OAKENFULL

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	49,727
Estimated mid-year home population	5,810
Average number of persons per acre	0.11
Number of inhabited houses	2,020
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ..	.04
Average number of persons per house	2.9
Rateable value	£383,990
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£3,710

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

	Live Births	Still Births
Number of births in the Weobley R.D., to mothers who reside in the district:	4	-
Number of births at Hereford County Hospital to mothers who reside in the Weobley R.D:	54	2
Number of births at other places to mothers who reside in the Weobley R.D:	1	-
	59	2

DEATHS

	Males	Females
Number of deaths in the Weobley R.D., of persons who are residents of the district:	17	12
Number of deaths of persons who are residents of Weobley R.D., occurring outside the district: (e.g., at hospitals)	18	17
	35	29

Age at death

	Under 4 wks.	4 weeks & under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
Males	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	10	20
Females	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7	14

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Weobley Rural District

Disease	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	-	4
Measles	49	6	80	13	3
Scarlet Fever	-	5	-	6	2
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	3	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	2	1	2	-	2
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-

North Herefordshire

Whooping Cough	-	-	5	-	4
Measles	266	23	291	146	35
Scarlet Fever	-	7	6	10	4
Infective Jaundice	1	1	4	10	106
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	-	2	-
Dysentery	-	37	2	2	1
Food Poisoning	5	1	11	16	9
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	5	2	7	3	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	1	2	1	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1973

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Measles	1	26	113	50	52	22	-	1	-	-	1	-	266
Infective Jaundice	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	5
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	1	5
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1972.	2	-	1	1
New cases notified	1	1	-	-
Died	1	-	-	-
Moved out of district	1	-	1	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1973.	1	1	-	1

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1969	2	31	-	-
1970	-	30	-	1
1971	3	30	1	-
1972	1	4	-	7
1973	2	3	1	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The Rural District is situated in the North Western portion of the Country. It comprises 26 parishes covering an area of 49,727 acres of mainly agricultural land, and whilst there are no large villages, each parish has a village or hamlet forming a nucleus.

There is very little, if any, other form of industry apart from farming in the area and for some years now there has been a decrease in the number of people turning to agriculture for a livelihood. Many young people, quite naturally, tend to go to Hereford or Leominster to work. Also, quite a large number prefer to move away completely from the Rural area into the larger towns, such as Birmingham, where there is much more scope by way of employment and leisure.

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Regional and Village Supplies

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the supply of the Herefordshire Water Board and mains supplies are available in the greater portion of the District.

Water Supplied from Public Mains direct to Houses (including farm-houses)

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Almeley	120	360
Birley	25	75
Bishopstone	64	192
Blakemere	16	48
Bridge Sollars	3	9
Brinsop	6	18
Brobury	2	6
Byford	44	132
Canon Pyon	133	399
Dilwyn	132	396
Eardisland	57	171
Kinnersley	31	93
King's Pyon	72	216
Letton	10	30
Mansel Lacy	36	108
Moccas	19	57
Monnington-on-Wye	8	24
Norton Canon	69	207
Breston-on-Wye	35	105
Sarnesfield	4	12
Staunton-on-Wye	115	345
Stretford	---	---
Weobley	309	927
Yazor	22	66

Water Supplied from Private Mains

Parish	No. of Houses	Approx. Population
Bridge Sollars	2	6
Brinsop	3	9
Canon Pyon	2	6
Mansel Lacy	4	12
Norton Canon	2	6
Wormesley	6	18
Yazor	4	12

Water Supplied from Public Mains by means of Standpipes

Bishopstone	1	3
Weobley	10	30

The water supplied from these public and private mains is satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

b) The Examination and Sampling of Water Supplies

During the year 130 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination as follows:-

	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Public Supplies (chlorinated)	81	4	85
Other Supplies (wells, springs and private supplies	18	27	45
	99	31	130

Where supplies have proved to be unsatisfactory, occupiers were notified that water used for drinking purposes should be boiled prior to use. Where appropriate, the Herefordshire Water Board has also been informed.

No samples were submitted for chemical analysis during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Public Sewage Disposal Works at Weobley, Dilwyn, Moccas and Canon Pyon have functioned very well during this past year.

There is ample capacity at the Weobley Works to accommodate the flow from Ledgemoor and Weobley Marsh, the new development under

construction at Bear Croft Estate, possibly King's Pyon and in due course, Bush Bank. The installation of a standby generator ensures, as far as it is possible to do so, that the Weobley Works can be kept operational during times of crisis.

At Dilwyn an extension to the Works is necessary to meet growing development requirements, and by December emergency plans for additional drying beds were in hand and the Consulting Engineers were preparing detailed plans for an extension to the Works.

Much progress has been made as respects Staunton-on-Wye, Norton Canon and Eardisland, and towards the end of this year proposals had been prepared and submitted to the various Departments for schemes covering a wide area. The scheme for Ledgemoor and Weobley Marsh was also nearing tender stage and a survey in the Almeley District was scheduled to take place before the 31st March, 1974, but it now appears likely that Almeley could possibly best be served by pumping crude sewage to nearby Eardisley, where extensions to the existing Works will soon be required because of development and infiltration of subsoil water.

The Scheme at Bishopstone was not completed at the end of the year because of the enormous difficulties encountered, due to adverse ground conditions during construction. There is a prospect, however, that completion may be effected by the 31st March, 1974.

The Preston-on-Wye Scheme was commenced during April, 1973, and good progress was maintained throughout, there being every reason to suppose that completion will be effected by April, 1974.

Officers of the Council were, during 1973, appointed to prepare a project on Sewers and Sewage Disposal for presentation to the Leominster District Council, who will assume this Council's responsibilities on the 1st April, 1974. It was revealed that progress in this area, in the field of water pollution control, compares quite favourably with progress made by neighbouring Authorities.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths within the area. A small pool is, however, in use at Weobley County Primary School for the use of pupils. Samples of water from the Baths are regularly submitted for bacteriological examination.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The combined District Services operated from Weobley to all parts of the Weobley and Kington Rural District Areas has functioned smoothly during the past twelve months. It is regretted, however, that as a result of Government pressure to reduce expenditure, it was found necessary not to proceed with the distribution of plastic sacks for use as bin liners, to every householder.

Had the scheme been adopted, it would have represented a major step forward from a hygienic point of view and in the writer's opinion, a saving in man power could ultimately have been achieved, as housing developments in the area proceed.

DISINFECTIONS

Terminal disinfection is carried out as requisite.

THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

A rodent operator was engaged during November, 1972; early in the year he commenced a survey of the District and a "free" service of treatment of private dwellings.

Unfortunately, as "Warfarin" resistance among the rodents has increased, the operator has been overwhelmed with work. It seems more than likely, therefore, that following reorganisation on the 1st April next, the Leominster District Council will feel obliged to enlarge the rodent control service to enable it to adequately handle the increased demands now being made on the service by the general public.

The report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at the 31st December, 1973, reads as follows:-

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS	TYPE OF PROPERTY NON-AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. Number of properties in district	1,464	610
2(a)Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	210	15
2(b)No. infested by i) Rats	52	--
ii) Mice	8	--
3(a)Total no. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	1938 Survey	179 Survey
3(b)No. infested by i) Rats	102	57
ii) Mice	2	4
SEWERS		
4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year?	NO	

SYNOPSIS OF INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

As required in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 20 of Article 25 of the Public Health Officers' Regulations, 1959.

Inspection Under	Number	Informal Notices Served	Statutory Notices Served	Notices Complied With
Animal Boarding Establishments	1			
Building Inspections and New Buildings	438	12		12
Building Plans	75			
Building Regulations	6			
Council Housing Schemes	20			
Council House Management and Maintenance	191	10		10
Council House Tenancy Investigations	26			
Civil Amenities Act	6			
Drainage	2			
Discretionary Improvement Grants	69			
Establishment	1			
Farm Drainage	1			
Food Premises	18			
Fire Precautions Act	1			
Housing F.P.) Act, Section 41	22			
Housing Inspections	16			
Hop-Pickers' Quarters	1			
Local Government Reorganisation	55			
Meat Inspections	138			
Miscellaneous	90			
Moveable Dwellings	30			
Nuisances	42	10		10
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	23			
Public Health Act, (Section 60)	1			
Planning Duties	3			
Petroleum Inspections	4			
Public Offices	2			
Public Conveniences	80			
Refuse Collection and Disposal	54			
Rodent Control	3	2		2
Sale of Council Houses	3			
Slaughterhouses	4			
Sewage Disposal	294			
Standard Improvement Grants	30			
Valuation of Property	8			
Water Samples	88	15		15
Water Supplies	37			
Totals	1,883	47		47

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

There are no large factories within the rural area and the number of persons employed in such factories as exist is quite small.

The list of factories within the area is as follows:-

PARISH	FACTORIES Mechnical Power With	Without	Total	Other Premises
Almeley	1	-	1	1
Blakemere	2	-	2	-
Canon Pyon	3	-	3	1
Dilwyn	1	-	1	-
Eardisland	1	-	1	1
Moccas	1	-	1	-
Norton Canon	1	-	1	1
Preston-on-Wye	1	-	1	1
Weobley	6	-	6	1
Totals	17	-	17	7

The 'Other Premises' described in the foregoing list of factories include workshops, such as tradesmen's premises at which no one except the owners are employed. These premises are outside the definition of "Factories" as described in the Act.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1958 AND HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

Discretionary Improvement Grants

The scheme has been implemented by the Council since 1952 and so far 278 proposals have been approved. Dwellings improved under this scheme now amount to 14.1% of the total of occupied houses

Thirty-five schemes were approved by the Council during the year.

Standard Improvement Grants

This method of improving old properties continues to be well received and during the year thirty-three applications were made and approved, with sixteen completed and paid.

Since the inauguration of the scheme in 1959, some 357 proposals, amounting to about 18.2% of the total of occupied houses in the area, have been approved, five of these being later withdrawn by the applicants.

COUNCIL HOUSING AND BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

A scheme for the erection of eight houses and four bungalows at Preston-on-Wye was moving forward again at the end of the year with a view to building operations being commenced during May/June, 1974, following completion of the public sewerage system for the village.

The proposals for a further six houses and twenty-four bungalows at Weobley, and two bungalows at Dilwyn, were well advanced in December and it seems likely that this development could also be proceeded with by the Leominster District Council during May/June, 1974.

The advantage in each case is that the Council already owns the land required.

A request for further bungalows at Almeley was favourably received and forwarded to the Leominster District Council with a recommendation for action.

A summary of the various Council Housing Schemes is given here-under:-

PARISH	Completed	Year	Under Construction	Houses in preparatory stages	Year
Almeley	8	1951	-	-	-
	2	1955	-	-	-
	11	1956	-	-	-
	4	1969	-	-	-
Bishopstone	2	1945	-	-	-
	12	1966	-	-	-
	2	1969	-	-	-
Canon Pyon	2	1945	-	-	-
	14	1965	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	6	1965	-	-	-
	1	1965	-	-	-
	1	1967	-	-	-
(Conversion)	1	1971	-	-	-
	1	1972	-	-	-
Dilwyn	12	1953	-	-	-
	4	1955	-	-	-
(Bungalows)				2	1973/4
Eardisland	4	1954	-	-	-
	15	1955	-	-	-
King's Pyon	6	1966	-	-	-
Norton Canon	2	1944	-	-	-
	4	1966	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	2	1966	-	-	-
Letton Conversion	2	1966	-	-	-
Moccas	7	1969	-	-	-
Preston-on-Wye	-		-	-	1962
Staunton-on-Wye	14	1966	-	-	-
" " " Louvain	2	1968	-	-	-

PARISH	Completed	Year	Under construction	Houses in preparatory stages	Year
Weobley	14	1949	-	-	-
	10	1955	-	-	-
	22	1956	-	-	-
	9	1957	-	-	-
(Conversion)	1	1948	-	-	-
	2	1952	-	-	-
	5	"	-	-	-
	3	1958	-	-	-
(Bungalows)	6	1961	-	-	-
	6	"	-	-	-
	20	1962	-	-	-
(Grouped Dwellings)	22	1970	-	-	-
(Warden's Flat)	1	"	-	-	-
(Bungalows - General Needs	4	"	-	-	-
(Bungalows - Old Peoples and General Needs)	-		-	24	1973/4
Total	266			38	

FINANCIAL ADVANCES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, PURCHASE OR RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES

Since 1956 it has been the Council's policy to advance money for the purposes stated in the heading and six applications were considered and approved during the year.

Advances made since 1956 are as follows:-

a) For the construction of new dwellings 16

b) For the purpose of purchase, repair or improvement of existing dwellings 84

BUILDING PLANS

A total of 306 applications were dealt with during the year as follows:-

Accesses	6
Alterations and Improvements	95
Central Heating	3

Change of use	12
Conservatories, porches, etc.	8
Cricket pavilion	1
Extensions to Filling Station and Garage	3
Farm Buildings	32
Garages	27
Illuminated Signs	1
Overhead Lines	4
Private Houses	70
Sanitary Accommodation	6
Sewage Connections	10
Sewage Works	7
Stores	5
Swimming Pool	1
Telephone Exchange	1
Village Halls	1
Workshops	1

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE

At the end of the year petrol storage capacity amounted to 61,500 gallons .

There are eight filling stations and thirty-seven private storage tanks licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit.

No licences were issued during the year for the storage of carbide.

HOP PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION

The introduction of machinery for hop-picking has meant that local labour has largely satisfied the demands on smaller farms, thus very few dwellings were used during the season.

Number of farms having accommodation for pickers: 2

SCHOOL MILK SUPPLIES

By arrangement with the County Council, samples of milk are obtained and submitted for bacteriological and also biological examination.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the area are as follows:-

Butchers' shops	2	School canteens	3
Grocers' shops	6	Snack Bars and Cafes	3
Inns & Hotels	17	Other small shops	12

The other small shops mentioned sell sundry items of food and sweets in pre-packed wrappers.

Throughout the year, from time to time, miscellaneous inspections of food premises were undertaken during the course of other visits, but 24 inspections were made specifically in connection with Food Hygiene Regulations.

Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	48
Number of premises to which Reg. 19 applies	48
Number of premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19	48
Premises registered under Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for storage and sale of ice-cream	34

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND BUTCHERS' SHOPS

There are two private slaughterhouses in Weobley, both of which are used regularly. During the year -

173 Beasts 211 Sheep 390 Lambs 527 Pigs

were slaughtered at the two establishments and, after inspection, the following meat was considered to be unfit for human consumption.

Livers:-

16 Bovine 23 pigs 3 sheep

By comparison with 1972, 6.2% less animals were slaughtered in the area.

A 100% inspection of all carcasses and organs has been maintained.